

The LECs operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning stimulates competition and benefits consumers. My broadband connection illustrates the case: Qwest, which is my phone carrier, told me for a year that my line "did not qualify" for DSL, but tried to steer me to a much more expensive and limited "iDSL" service (old IDSN). Covad did not have any difficulty in providing the service. I've been enjoying excellent quality service with Covad and Speakeasy ever since. I am really concerned about any change that would terminate my non-Qwest service.

I have also expressed this concern to Senator Allard in a town meeting he held last year.